THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 25, further comprising:

a ring member integrally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member; and

a valve seat formed upon an interior wall portion of said ring member for mating with said flapper valve member when said flapper valve member is disposed at said second **CLOSED** position.

3. (Original) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said ring member has a substantially C-shaped configuration.

4. (Original) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 3, wherein:

said substantially C-shaped ring member has circumferentially spaced terminal end portions; and

an end portion of said flapper valve member is fixedly mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member between said terminal end portions of said substantially C-shaped ring member.

5. (Original) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:

said flapper valve member is fabricated from a suitable rubber composition.

6. (Currently Amended) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

said flapper valve member is pivotally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member so as to be pivotally movable between said first and second **OP-**

ENED and **CLOSED** positions.

7. (Original) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 6, wherein:

a living hinge section is defined upon said flapper valve member immediately adjacent to said end portion of said flapper valve member so as to permit said flapper valve member to be pivotally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member between said first and second **OPENED** and **CLOSED** positions.

8. (Currently Amended) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 4, [further comprising] wherein:

said fixation bar, [means] for fixing said end portion of said flapper valve member upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member, is interposed between said terminal end portions of said substantially C-shaped ring member.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The combination as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 27, further comprising:

a ring member integrally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member; and

a valve seat formed upon an interior wall portion of said ring member for mating with said flapper valve member when said flapper valve member is disposed at said **CLOSED** position.

13. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

said ring member has a substantially C-shaped configuration.

14. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 13,

wherein:

said substantially C-shaped ring member has circumferentially spaced terminal end portions; and

an end portion of said flapper valve member is fixedly mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member between said terminal end portions of said substantially C-shaped ring member.

15. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 14, wherein:

said flapper valve member is fabricated from a suitable rubber composition.

16. (Currently Amended) The combination as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

said flapper valve member is pivotally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member so as to be pivotally movable between said first and second **OPENED** and **CLOSED** positions.

17. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

a living hinge section is defined upon said flapper valve member immediately adjacent to said end portion of said flapper valve member so as to permit said flapper valve member to be pivotally mounted upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member between said first and second **OPENED** and **CLOSED** positions.

18. (Currently Amended) The combination as set forth in Claim 14, [further comprising] wherein:

said fixation bar, [means] for fixing said end portion of said flapper valve member upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member, is interposed between said terminal end portions of said substantially C-shaped ring member.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The combination as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 27, wherein:

said inflatable article comprises an inflatable bladder for enclosure within a cargo air bag.

22. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 21, wherein:

said cargo air bag, enclosing said inflatable bladder, comprises at least one paper ply.

23. (Currently Amended) The combination as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 27, wherein:

said inflatable article comprises an inflatable bladder which comprises a cargo air bag per se.

24. (Original) The combination as set forth in Claim 23, wherein:

said inflatable bladder may be fabricated from a material selected from the group comprising a plastic material, **VALERON®**, polyethylene with woven **NYLON®**, and a single-ply **KRAFT®** paper laminated with polyethylene.

25. (New) An inflation valve assembly for facilitating the inflation of an inflatable article, comprising:

an annular flange member having a first surface portion which is adapted to be pneumatically sealed upon a wall surface of the inflatable article;

a nipple portion, adapted to be connected to an external source of fluid pressure, integrally connected to said first surface portion of said annular flange member and defining a fluid passageway which extends through said annular flange member for conducting pressurized air into the interior of the inflatable article;

a flapper valve member movably disposed upon a second surface portion of said annular flange member between a first **OPENED** position by means of which pressurized air can be fluidically conducted into and out from the interior portion of the inflatable article, and a second **CLOSED** position

by means of which pressurized air is prevented from being fluidically conducted into and out from the interior portion of the inflatable article;

a fixation bar extending in a chordwise manner across a portion of said second surface portion of said annular flange member so as to secure said flapper valve member upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member; and

detent means, defined upon opposite end portions of said fixation bar, for engaging said flapper valve member, as said flapper valve member is moved from said second **CLOSED** position to said first **OPENED** position, so as to retain said flapper valve member at said first **OPENED** position in order to permit pressurized air to be fluidically conducted into and out from the interior portion of the inflatable article.

26. (New) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:

said detent means project radially inwardly toward each other.

27. (New) In combination, an inflatable article and an inflation valve assembly for facilitating the inflation of the inflatable article, comprising:

an inflatable article;

an annular flange member having a first surface portion pneumatically sealed upon a wall surface of said inflatable article;

a nipple portion, adapted to be connected to an external source of fluid pressure, integrally connected to said first surface portion of said annular flange member and defining a fluid passageway which extends through said annular flange member for conducting pressurized air into the interior of said inflatable article;

a flapper valve member movably disposed upon a second surface portion of said annular flange member between a first **OPENED** position by means of which pressurized air can be fluidically conducted into and out from said interior portion of said inflatable article, and a second **CLOSED** position by means of which pressurized air is prevented from being fluidically conducted into and out from said interior portion of said inflatable article;

a fixation bar extending in a chordwise manner across a portion of said second surface portion of said annu-

lar flange member so as to secure said flapper valve member upon said second surface portion of said annular flange member; and

detent means, defined upon opposite end portions of said fixation bar, for engaging said flapper valve member, as said flapper valve member is moved from said second **CLOSED** position to said first **OPENED** position, so as to retain said flapper valve member at said first **OPENED** position in order to permit pressurized air to be fluidically conducted into and out from said interior portion of said inflatable article.

28. (New) The inflation valve assembly as set forth in Claim 27, wherein:

said detent means project radially inwardly toward each other.